Raid on den

ANP demands judicial probe into 'double murder'

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD, Dec 31: The Awami National Party leaders have condemned the killing of two persons allegedly by the anti-narcotic force and Rangers on Hali Road on Wednesday and demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident.

Speaking at a news conference at the local press club on Thursday, the provincial leaders also demanded that an FIR should be registered against the narcotics personnel and they should be awarded 'exemplary' punishment.

They claimed that the narcotics force and Rangers had besieged a locality near the general bus stand, resorted to shooting into the air, created harassment and killed two people who were going to offer Zohar prayer.

They pointed out that the victims, Sher Bahadur and Mohammad Aslam, were neither drug-peddlers nor any narcotic den was located in the vicinity and added that they both were shot dead at the door of the Zam Zam mosque without any provocation. The ANP leaders said that in order to hide their crime, the law enforcers had converted the cold-blooded murders into an encounter.

They also denied that arms were recovered and added that the law enforcers had barged into the house of Dawood Khan Pathan, insulted the women and taken away three licensed pistols.

They said that taking refuge behind the governor's rule, various agencies had been given licence to kill people and trespass into homes without any search warrants.

When asked whether the deceased were criminals, the ANP leaders said this was irrelevant and added that even the criminals have go to be produced before the court of law.

"However, the anti-narcotic people and Rangers have no right to perform the role of a judge and executioner," they said.

Those who addressed the news conference included provincial president of the party, Mohammad Amin Khattak, Haji Asmatullah Khan Mehsood, Sultan Mandukhel, Qamoos Gul Khattak and Aurangzeb Khan.

PML LEADER'S CLAIM: Haji Saleemuddin Khan Qaimkhani, who claims to be the chief organizer/president of the Sindh PML labour wing, told a press conference here on Thursday that he continued to be the provincial chief of the wing.

Mr Qaimkhani's assertions came after the new president, Abdul Karim Rahu, terminated the basic membership of some activists, including Mr Qaimkhani.

He said he had been appointed by the president of the wing, Syed Faqir Hussain Bukhari, and he cannot be expelled from the party.

He appealed to the party high-command to expel the PPP agents turned Muslim Leaguers.

RECONSTITUTED: The vice chancellor of Sindh University has reconstituted the department of mathematics and the computer science section.

The VC notified that under the centralization of computer teaching and utilization of computer facilities and as an economic measure, he ordered the reconstitution.

11 detainees remanded in ANF custody

By Our Correspondent

HYDERABAD, Dec 31: Two separate cases were registered with the Gulshan-i-Hali police and the Anti Narcotics Force following Wednesday's joint operation by ANF and rangers personnel at a narcotics den at Al-Waheed Colony that left two persons dead.

The accused have been remanded in the ANF custody on Thursday for two days.

The ANF has lodged a case under the Narcotics Act on the complaint of ANF deputy director Athar Khan Afridi. The drugs, money and mobile telephone set recovered from the den have been shown in the FIR as seized property.

All the 11 accused persons, arrested from the den, were in the ANF custody.

The ANF personnel have obtained their two-day remand in custody on Thursday from the court of judicial magistrate-II Syed Muhammad Hasnain Shah.

The Gulshan-i-Hali police have also registered an FIR on the complaint of the ANF deputy director.

Meanwhile, those who were killed on Wednesday, were laid to rest in the local graveyard on Thursday.

The provincial leadership of ANP has demanded a judicial probe into the whole incident to ascertain the facts leading to the killing of Aslam Pachrang and Sher Muhammad, the brother-in-law of Dawood Khan Pathan, a member of ANP's central executive committee.

Rally staged against MC administrator

By A Correspondent

KHAIRPUR, Dec 31: People here on Wednesday took out a procession to protest against the administrator of the Khairpur municipal committee, accusing him of victimization.

The office-bearers of the Hashmi welfare association and citizen council led the processionists who carried banners and raised slogans against the official. They also staged a sit-in at Farooque Azam Chowk.

They alleged that the administrator had ruined the town by deploying the sanitary staff at the residences of municipal officials while the whole town was stinking.

They further said that there was no streetlights and even water was not available at mosques, causing hardship to the faithful in the holy month.

They demanded an immediate removal of Ghulam Yasin Shaikh, the administrator.

INJURED: One person, Abdul Karim, was injured when Mangnejo and Kurio tribesmen clashed over a land dispute in kachcha area near Khairpur on Wednesday. Gullo Sial police booked Allah Wadayo, Kurio, Mehrab, Awais, Waris, Meer and Nawab on both sides.

TENSION: Pacca Chang taluka was tense as Shar and Chang clans flexed muscles following the murder of a youth, Mohammad Hussain Chang, allegedly at the hands of Shar tribesmen.

All the shops remained closed in the small town on Wednesday owing to the tension.

Officials asked to achieve revenue target

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR, Dec 31: Sindh secretary, livestock and fisheries, Dr Mohammed Nawaz Baloch, has directed his department officials to make all out efforts to achieve revenue target.

Speaking at a meeting, he directed the field officers to convey results of modern research achievements of live-stock and fisheries sector to the small farmers for better production.

He informed that certain feeding trials, were being carried out for economical rationing of Kundi Buffaloes in Sindh.

The secretary directed the officers to dispose off government waters as per instruction of the Supreme Court and warned that violation of rules, would not be over looked or excused in any way.

The meeting was attended by concerned officers of Sukkur and Larkana divisions.

Sachal's Urs begins today

KARACHI, Dec 31: The 177th Urs of Hazrat Sachal Sarmast, a great saint and Sufi poet of seven languages, is being held from Friday at Daraza Sharif, at his shrine near the Ranipur Railway Station along the Ranipur-Gambat Road in Khairpur Mirs district, Sindh.

This has been announced by the Khalifa, Inayatullah Mughal, in a press statement issued here on Thursday.

According to the programme, the Alam ceremony would be held at 4.30 p.m. on Friday followed by Ghusil (holy bath) and Chadar (floral wreath laying) ceremonies at 9 a.m. the next day.

Devotees, who have already started pouring in from all over the province as well as other parts of the country and abroad, would converge on the shrine and offer Asr and Maghrib prayers at the Daraza Sharif Mosque.

The Takht (crowning) ceremony of Sajjada Nasheen would be held at 8 a.m. on Sunday.

Our Khairpur correspondent adds: Sindh Governor, Lt. Gen. (rtd) Moinuddin Haider, will formally inaugurate the Urs celebrations by laying a floral wreath on the Mazar of the saint on Sunday.

The other programmes organized on the eve included Mehfil-i-Sama, a literary conference, the traditional game of Malakhra and Mushaira.

Hundreds of thousands of devotees, including leading figures in political, social and religious organizations, turn up every year to participate in the programmes and attend the ceremonies at Daraza Sharif.

The DC of Khairpur has announced a local holiday on Jan 4.

Doctors' boycott

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA, Dec 31: Doctors boycotted OPD duties at Chandka Medical College Teaching Hospital here on Wednesday to press the government for the regularization of the services of contract doctors.

The call for the protest was given by the Contract Doctors Association.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ikram Tunio, the vice president of Pakistan Medical Association, Sindh, and Dr Gowinda Bhojwani called upon the provincial government to release the 15-month salaries of the contract doctors without delay.

They announced that the doctors will observe black day on Jan 9.

CLASH: An alleged dacoit, Ghous Bakhsh Buledi, was killed and another arrested following an armed encounter here on Tuesday night, SP Z. A. Bokhari said on Wednesday.

He said that the five-member armed gang snatched a tractor from Ali Dost Mugheri near Hasila village.

The personnel from three police stations and the villagers chased the robbers and accosted them near Kheero Mughiri village. In the ensuing encounter, one dacoit was killed while another, Mohram Buledi, was arrest.

The SP further said that the other gangsters.

Over 100 'ghost' employees sacked in Thatta

By Our Correspondent

THATTA, Dec 31: A total of 106 employees of different local bodies of Thatta district have been sacked under the directives of the Sindh Governor Lt. Gen. (rtd) Moinuddin Haider, its has been learnt reliably on Thursday.

The governor had directed all the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies to prepare lists of 'ghost' employees drawing salaries from the government exchequer and implement the downsizing plan to stop the pilferage of funds.

After a review of the lists, submitted to the relevant officials, 106 employees were relieved of their duties on Thursday either on the grounds of illegal appointment or surplus staff. It transpired during the review that many of these employees had been drawing salaries for doing no job.

The office of assistant director, Local Governments (ADLG), Makli, issued letters of dismissals to 29 employees of the Union Council Darya Khan Soho, 43 of the Union Council Makli, six of the Union Council Belo and 28 of the Town Committee Gharo.

The ADLG, Thatta, Syed Sher Ali Shah, confirmed the action and said that another comprehensive list of workers, employed in nine Taluka Town Committees and about 48 Union Councils, was being prepared for a review. He, however, said that the purpose for the practice was to streamline the work capability of these bodies.

CEMENT PLANT: The Thatta Cement Factory, a component of the State Cement Corporation, is facing the worst ever financial crisis following detection of massive irregularities and pilferage of funds.

The Customs department has demanded payment of outstanding dues of Rs16.5 million while WAPDA and Sui Southern Gas Company have also intensified pressure on the plant's management to clear their dues amounting to Rs15 million.

EXCAVATION: The Reti Bajri truck owners have moved to Thatta district to collect the commodities following the imposition of ban on such activities in the jurisdiction of Malir district, Karachi.

Despite the ban, also in force in Thatta district, scores of trucks turn up here everyday and take away Reti and Bajri from the hilly track for onward supply to different areas of Karachi.

Local social organizations have drawn the attention of the authorities towards the illegal practice and demanded protection to the historical sites in Bhambhore where digging work by the traders of these commodities has become rampant.

ADMINISTRATOR HELD: A team of the Anti-corruption Establishment (ACE), Thatta, led by its Circle Officer, Zawwar Hussain, conducted a raid on the office of the Union Council Garho and arrested its administrator, Hidayatullah Mangi. The detainee is facing charge of misappropriating Rs1.3 million from the council's funds.

The team also seized the relevant record during the raid.

Labour leader found dead

By Our Correspondent

HYDERABAD, Dec 31: The general secretary of Pakistan WAPDA Paigham union, Sindh, Akhlaque Ahmed Malgani, was found dead near the Jamshoro barrage here on Thursday.

The Jamshoro police was informed by some commuters that a body was lying on the road.

According to police, the brother-in-law of Akhlaque Malgani, Aslam Pervaiz, registered an FIR against unknown killers.

He informed the police that the deceased had attended Iftar on Wednesday at his residence and then left for Jamshoro on his motor-bike.

It is believed that some bandits would have tried to rob him of his bike and on resistance, shot him dead.

He was a sub-engineer in the thermal power house, Jamshoro.

He had addressed a Press conference at the press club pertaining to union affairs three days back.

ENCOUNTER: A suspect, Abdul Razzaque Shoro, was shot dead in an encounter with the Jamshoro police on Thursday.

The police said that the police, after being informed by a truck driver that some unidentified highwaymen were trying to loot goods from a moving truck, rushed to chowki No. 13, where an exchange of fire took place with the outlaws during which Abdul Razzaque Shoro was killed and his three accomplices managed to escape.

A case was registered at the Jamshoro Police Station.

SUICIDE: An 18-year-old, Ms Shahid, is reportedly committed suicide near Hatri on Thursday.

POWER SUPPLY: A large number of railway employees, on Wednesday, held a meeting at Railway Colony Kotri, to protest against the non supply of electricity to their colony, for the last 10 days.

The meeting participants, also threatened to block the railway tracks, if electricity supply to the colony, was not restored within 24 hours.

The workers had gathered at the colony, on the call of various workers union i.e. railways worker union and the prem and inquilabi unions.

They claimed that a 200 kv transformer at Khanpur, has been laying inoperative since the last 10 days, but the divisional railway officials, havenot bothered to resolve the problem.

They maintained that because of non supply of power, the water supply has also been affected, causing enormous problems to the people, during the holy month of Ramazan.

They also demanded immediate restoration of power supply.

Mosque school teachers demand salaries

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA, Dec 31: The mosque school teachers union, has expressed concern at non-payment of salaries to the 123 mosque school teachers, since the last three months.

Syed Rabdino Shah, in a statement on Wednesday, accused the education department officials of discrimination, saying that while the salaries of mosque school teachers of other union councils have been paid, they were held-up for the Dokri sub-division.

The Shahri Ittehad (SI), has also endorsed the demand and pointed towards the closure of a primary girls school, Sehar station, two years back.

The SI leader mentioned that despite repeated approach, the concerned officials did not pay any heed towards reopening this school.He also appealed to the Sindh governor and education secretary to intervene.

RESULTS: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Larkana, on Wednesday, announced the results of Secondary School Certificate Part-II, supplementary examination 1998 of science and general groups.

Only, one out of 1,789 candidates, secured A-1 grade, while 19 passed in A grade, 166 in B grade, 700 in C grade and 518 in D grade.

Only two cases of cheating were detected, said the announcement.

CANAL CLOSURE: Chief engineer, Sukkur Barrage announced on Wednesday, that all the canals, originating from Sukkur barrage would remain closed from Jan 6 to 20, for annual inspection.

SHC issues notices to two police officers

By Our Correspondent

HYDERABAD, Dec 31: The Sindh High Court, Hyderabad circuit bench, on Thursday issued notices to the SSP of Badin district, the SHO of Tando Ghulam Ali Police Station and the additional A.G of Sindh in response to a constitutional petition alleging police highhandedness.

The petition filed by Qurban Ali Chohan, advocate, on behalf of petitioner Mazhar Iqbal would be heard on Jan 5.

The Home Secretary, the IG of Police, Sindh, the commissioner of Hyderabad, the DIG of Police, Hyderabad, the SSP of Badin and others were nominated as respondents.

The petitioner prayed for the registration of an FIR against certain police officials who had trespassed into his house and looted some gold ornaments, cash and licensed gun.

He further prayed that the gun and documents of two cars which were taken away by the police of Tando Ghulam Ali Police Station should be returned to him.

He has prayed for the grant of cost of Rs2,00,000 to him to be paid by the SHO of Tando Ghulam Ali Police Station and his subordinate from their own pockets.

He recalled that on Dec 17 a police party led by SHO Mir Liaquat of Tando Ghulam Ali Police Station, trespassed into his house without any search warrant and misbehaved with the women folk.

They broke open the almirah and looted Rado watch, gold ornaments and Rs25,000 cash.

He added that on December 18 when he went to the police station of Digri to lodge an FIR the police refused to register the case against their colleagues and then he approached the SSP of Badin who held out an assurance that the action will be taken against the responsible policemen.

He maintained that the raiding team also taken away documents of two cars of the petitioner which were registered in the name of Munawar Iqbal and Muhammad Iqbal, both are brothers of the petitioner.

He disclosed that no action was taken despite assurance by the SSP against Mir Liaquat Ali, who expressed his anger after he learnt that the SSP was approached by the petitioner for taking action against him.

He said that it was an irony that his younger brother, Muhammad Iqbal, was implicated in false cases under the Arms Ordinance and theft of cars, which were Muhammad Iqbal's own property.

He added that SHO Mir Liaquat Ali called him at the police station and said that if he dared to contact any other authority his entire family would be implicated in false cases.

He claimed that he was also detained at the said police station and was only allowed to go after he paid Rs75,000 to the police as bribe through his cousin, Amir.

He said that the said police officials had violated mandatory provisions of law thus committing offences under section 457, 458, 395 PPC.

He said that the attitude of SSP of Badin had emboldened the policemen who kept violating the sanctity of chadar and char dewari.

He prayed that the DIG of Hyderabad be directed to refrain the respondents from harassing his family members and that a detailed investigation by some and honest police officer should be conducted to ascertain true facts.

Provincial autonomy PONAM's main aim, says Magsi

By A Correspondent

BADIN, Dec 31: The chairman of Sindh Taraqqi Pasand Party, Dr Qadir Magsi, has said the Pakistan Oppressed Nations Movement is not satisfied with the quantum of autonomy provided in the Constitution.

Briefing newsmen at the Badin Press Club here on Wednesday evening, Dr Magsi reiterated that the aim of the PONAM was not to struggle for the removal of the Nawaz government but it was aimed at achieving full autonomy for the provinces.

He claimed that Pakistan was being ruled by a clique which believed in 'Punjabi chauvinism' and knew not what was happening in the provinces, particularly in Sindh.

The nationalist leader criticized the governor's rule, saying that it was a conspiracy against the people of Sindh whose voice has been suppressed. He warned the government against any move aimed at gagging the voice of the nationalists.

To a query, Dr Magsi said the question of seeking the MQM's cooperation and its joining the PONAM could not arise as the MQM did not represent a nationality while the PONAM was an alliance of the parties representing the four nations which were hit by the big province.

The STPP chief announced that the PONAM would launch a campaign in Punjab after Eid with a view to apprising the people there to demonstrate large heartedness and try to understand the magnitude of the problems of smaller provinces.

Referring to Sindh, he said Sindhis were even deprived of their democratic rights by the rulers and added that the Islamabad Declaration could save the country from disintegration.

Later, the STPP organized a musical show to mark the New Year's celebrations.

ENCROACHMENTS: The district administration on Wednesday continued its anti-encroachment operation, dismantling sheds on Khoski Road.

Talking to this correspondent, the assistant commissioner of Badin said that at least six shops and more than 30 sheds erected on the state land were removed.

He said the encroachments will also be cleared from other parts of the town.

Remand

By A Correspondent

MIRPURKHAS, Dec 31: The second additional sessions judge, Mirpurkhas, Faiz Mohammad Memon, has remanded two suspects in the police custody till surety is submitted to the court in connection with the Shah petrol pump ownership case.

Earlier, the bails to Asif Ali Shah and Abdul Naeem were cancelled after they failed to appear before the court on the hearing dates.

MIRPURKHAS, Dec 31: Javed alias Chitta, who went into hiding following a Rs 1.1 million robbery committed in the town a few years ago, has surrendered to the SSP of Mirpurkhas a couple of days back, on condition that he will not be implicated in false cases. The SSP assured so and Chitta surrendered, reports our correspondent.

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